

ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH for the year
1915.

Gentlemen,

The Local Government Board are not requiring this year the complete detailed report usually prepared, but rather wish for information as to the Sanitary work carried out during the year and the present sanitary condition of your district.

The presence of a considerable number of His Majesty's troops in your midst was accountable, as we might naturally expect, for some cases of disease. We find that amongst them there were 3 cases of Typhoid fever, 3 cases of Phthisis and 1 case of Scarlet fever.

Among the Belgian refugees there was 1 case of Phthisis.

All these cases of disease were imported into this district.

The 3 cases of ~~Scarlet~~ *Typhoid* fever and the case of Scarlet fever were removed to the Joint Isolation Hospital and all recovered. The treatment of the cases of Phthisis was also arranged for.

Of Zymotic disease, the most serious outbreak was that of Diphtheria, which first shewed itself on September 1st., when a little boy, aged 4 years, was accidentally discovered in his home suffering from Diphtheria in a dying state. He was removed to the Isolation Hospital where he died the next day. He had been treated by his mother for Mumps. Swabs were taken from the throats of contacts and a large number of children were found to be infected, and the fact that the type of disease was mild conduced to its spreading and prevented early cases from coming under observation. 75 cases were notified and of these 65 were treated in the Isolation Hospital. There were 3 deaths. Besides the swabs taken by myself, Dr. Brembridge, the County School Medical Officer, before closing the Schools, kindly examined a large number of the scholars and took and examined a large number of swabs. The source of the initial infection was no doubt two child carriers who were infected in Bristol.

The value in saving life and the extensive use that was made of the Isolation Hospital are more fully given in my report of the Hospital, which is appended to this report.

12 cases of Scarlatina were notified, 11 of which were treated in the Isolation Hospital. There were no deaths. The first 6 cases occurred between March and July. The next case was notified on December 12th. followed by 3 cases in the same neighbourhood. 2 cases were reported from other parts of the district. One case, notified on May 18th., came for a visit from London in the process of peeling and infected her friend before the nature of the disease was discovered. Both were admitted into the Isolation Hospital.

Enteric fever. 3 cases, all occurring amongst soldiers, were notified and treated in the Isolation Hospital - all recovered.

Erysipelas. 3 cases notified - all recovered.

Tuberculosis. 18 cases of pulmonary disease and 6 cases of other forms of the disease.. All were attended & advised by Dr. Crossley, Trowbridge, the County Officer.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum. 1 case which recovered.

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Of the more important work carried out during the year, we find the extension of the water mains 260 yards from Landsend to Lowden Avenue.

The Patterdown Sewage disposal works, which have recently come into the extended area, are in a more or less insanitary condition. Plans are being prepared by the Council's Engineer, Mr. Adams, to remodel these works and put them into an efficient condition. A loan will be applied for at a convenient time.

The old Borough Sewage disposal works are in their usual good order.

The site of the Wilts and Berks Canal situated in the Borough has been purchased by the Council.

The filters at the Water Works have been properly enclosed and a high level Aerator has been fixed.

Inspections were made by me in company with Mr. Adams of most parts of the district. The Woodlands, where most of the diphtheria cases came from, was inspected house to house, and two or more inspections were made in cases where it was found to be necessary. All houses where infectious disease was present have been disinfected by Mr. Adams. My attention was especially drawn to 130 houses which were being dealt with under the Housing and Town Planning Act - about 100 of them have been satisfactorily dealt with. In other respects the sanitary condition of the town is well maintained.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL. (Urban).

This Hospital is worked jointly by the Chippenham Urban and Rural Authorities. Its use in controlling the spread of infectious disease was amply shewn this year. The popularity of the hospital may be gauged by the use made of it. 150 patients were admitted - 8 cases of Typhoid - no death; 73 cases of Diphtheria - 2 deaths, in both instances the patients were received in a dying condition; 69 cases of Scarlatina - no death.

When the epidemic of diphtheria was at its height fears were entertained by the Management that the hospital accommodation would not be sufficient. However fortune favoured them and the emergency was got through, the only inconvenience felt being the insufficiency of the sleeping accommodation for the extra nurses who were engaged to assist in the nursing of the patients.

Of the above cases, 78 cases were admitted from the Borough, 65 Diphtheria, 11 Scarlatina, 2 Enteric fever.

Wm Thos Buscax
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RECEIPT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1915.

Table 1. Vital statistics of whole district during 1915 and previous years.

Year	Popu- lation	Births		Nett Number	Rate	Total deaths registered in district		Transferable deaths		Nett deaths belonging to the district		
		Uncorrected number	Firths			No.	Rate	Non res- idents regd. in the district	Residents not regd. of age	Under 1 year of age	At all ages	
1910	5074	110	110	21.67	71	13.99	8	6	2	81.2	69	13.59
1911	5332	104	104	19.5	53	9.93	7	10	9	86.5	56	10.5
1912	..	106	106	19.8	49	9.19	9	6	8	75.47	46	8.6
1913	..	93	93	17.4	62	11.5	6	11	3	32.2	67	12.3
1914	5720	113	113	19.7	57	9.9	5	10	7	61.0	62	10.34
1915	8006	140	140	17.4	113	14.11	23	5	4	32.5	95	11.86

Table 2. Cases of Infectious disease notified during the year 1915.

Disease	No. of cases notified				Total cases removed to Isolation Hos
	At all ages	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	
Diphtheria	75		13	55	65
Erysipelas	3			1	1
Scarlet fever	12		4	5	11
Enteric fever	3			1	2
Pulmonary tuberculosis	19			3	3
Other forms do.	6			6	9
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1			3	
Totals	119	1	17	69	78

Table 3.

Causes of, and ages at death during the year 1915.

Causes of death	Nett deaths at the subjoined ages of "pesidents" whether occurring within or without the district.										Total deaths whether of "pesidents" or "Non-pesidents" in Institutions in district.
	All ages	Under 15	1 & under 15	3 & under 15	5 and under 25	5 and under 45	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards		
All causes (Certified (Uncertified)	35	4	4	3	5	6	3	36	44		33
Whooping cough	4	1	3								
Diphtheria & Group	3			1		2					
Influenza	1	1									
Phthisis (Pulmonary tuberculosis)	3				2	1					3
Tuberculosis Meningitis	1					1					1
Other Tuberculous diseases	2			1	1						3
Cancer, malignant disease	5										
Organic heart disease	21							5			
Bronchitis	13						1	10	10		4
Pneumonia (all forms)	7	1	1			1	2	2	10		2
Appendicitis & typhilitis								1	1		1
Cirrhosis of Liver	1							1			1
Nephritis & Bright's disease	5							1			1
Other accidents & diseases of Pregnancy & Parturition	1								3		
Violent deaths excluding suicide	2						1				
Suicide	1			1		1					2
Other defined diseases	26	1			1			1	20		17

Table 4.

INFANT MORTALITY

Causes of death	1 - 3 months	3 - 6 months	6 - 9 months	Total deaths under 1 year
All causes	2	1	1	4
Whooping cough			1	1
Convulsions	1			1
Pneumonia		1		1
Other causes	1			1

Nett births in the year - legitimate 136

illegitimate 4

Nett deaths in the year - legitimate

infants 4

illegitimate

infants nil.

